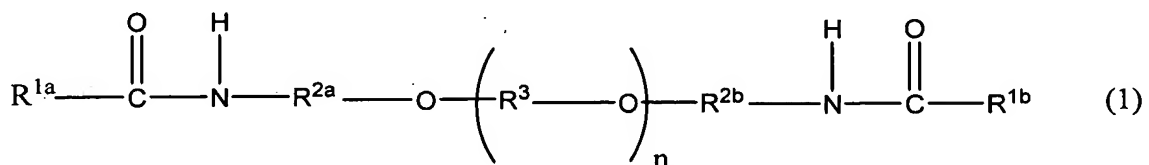


IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-6 (Canceled).

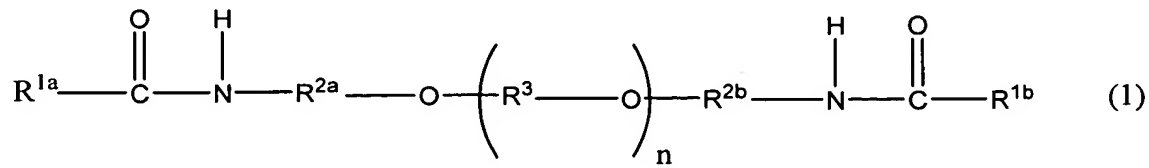
Claim 7 (Currently Amended): A method for ~~reinforcing the water retaining ability of the horny layer treating skin~~, which comprises applying, to the skin, a composition comprising an effective amount of a diamide derivative as claimed in claim 1 represented by the following formula (1):



(wherein, R^{1a} and R^{1b} are the same or different and each represents a C₁₋₂₃ hydrocarbon group, R^{2a} and R^{2b} are the same or different and each represents a divalent C₁₋₆ hydrocarbon group, R³s are the same or different and each represents a divalent C₂₋₆ hydrocarbon group and n stands for 1 to 100).

Claim 8 (Canceled).

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): A method for remedying excessive hair dryness or improving touch feel of the hair, which comprises applying, to the hair, a composition comprising an effective amount of a diamide derivative as claimed in claim 1 represented by the following formula (1):



(wherein, R^{1a} and R^{1b} are the same or different and each represents a C₁₋₂₃ hydrocarbon group, R^{2a} and R^{2b} are the same or different and each represents a divalent C₁₋₆ hydrocarbon group, R³s are the same or different and each represents a divalent C₂₋₆ hydrocarbon group and n stands for 1 to 100).

Claims 10-14 (Canceled).

Claim 15 (New): The method of claim 7, wherein said treating reinforces a water retaining ability of the horny layer.

Claim 16 (New): The method of claim 7, wherein said treating reinforces a skin barrier function.

Claim 17 (New): The method of claim 7, wherein said composition further comprises an intracellular lipid component of the horny layer.

Claim 18 (New): The method of claim 17, wherein said intracellular lipid component of the horny layer is at least one member selected from the group consisting of ceramides, pseudoceramids, sphingoglycolipids, sphingophospholipids, sphingosines and derivatives thereof, sphinganines and derivatives thereof, higher fatty acids and cholesterol and derivatives thereof.

Claim 19 (New): The method of claim 7, wherein said composition is a cosmetic composition.

Claim 20 (New): The method of claim 7, wherein said diamide is present in said composition, in an amount of 0.001 to 50 wt. %.

Claim 21 (New): The method of claim 7, wherein said composition further comprises an oily base.

Claim 22 (New): The method of claim 21, wherein said oily base is at least one member selected from the group consisting of vegetable oils, animal oils, synthetic oils, fatty acids, natural glycerides and synthetic glycerides.

Claim 23 (New): The method of claim 9, wherein said composition is a shampoo which comprises 0.001 to 5 wt. % of said diamide.

Claim 24 (New): The method of claim 23, further comprising an anionic surfactant.

Claim 25 (New): The method of claim 24, wherein said anionic surfactant is present in an amount of 5 to 30 wt. %.

Claim 26 (New): The method of claim 9, wherein said composition comprises 0.1 to 20 wt. % of said diamide.

Claim 27 (New): The method of claim 26, further comprising at least one surfactant selected from the group consisting of cationic surfactant and non-ionic surfactant.

Claim 28 (New): The method of claim 27, wherein said surfactant is present in an amount of 0.1 to 50 wt.%.

Claim 29 (New): The method of claim 9, wherein said composition comprises 0.01 to 5 wt.% of said diamide.

Claim 30 (New): The method of claim 29, wherein said composition further comprises a nonionic surfactant.

Claim 31 (New): The method of claim 30, wherein said nonionic surfactant is present in an amount of 0.01 to 20 wt.%.

SUPPORT FOR THE AMENDMENT

Support for the amendment to claim 7 is found in claims 1 and 8 as originally presented. Support for the amendment to claim 9 is found in claim 1 as originally presented. Support for claim 15 is found in claim 7 as originally presented. Support for claim 16 is found in claim 8 as originally presented. Support for claim 17 is found on page 12, lines 22-23 of the specification. Support for claim 18 is found beginning on page 12, line 22 of the specification through page 13, line 5 of the specification. Support for claim 19 is found in claim 11 as originally presented. Support for claim 20 is found on page 16, line 23 through page 17, line 3 of the specification. Support for claim 21 is found on page 17, lines 19-20 of the specification. Support for claim 22 is found on page 17, lines 22-24. Support for claim 23 is found on page 19, lines 10-13 of the specification. Support for claim 24 is found on page 19, lines 20-23 of the specification. Support for claim 25 is found on page 19, lines 23-24 of the specification. Support for claim 26 is found on page 19, lines 10-15 of the specification. Support for claim 27 is found on page 20, lines 2-11 of the specification. Support for claim 28 is found on page 20, lines 9-11 of the specification. Support for claim 29 is found on page 19, lines 14-15 of the specification. Support for claims 30 and 31 is found on page 20, lines 12-16 of the specification. No new matter is to be added to this application by entry of this amendment.

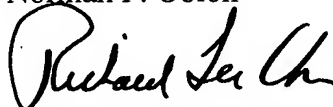
Upon entry of this amendment, claims 7, 9 and 15-31 will now be active in this application. The present application is a Divisional application of co-pending application 10/082,115 filed on February 26, 2002 and is directed to skin and hair treatment methods.

Applicants submit that this application is now in condition for examination on the merits and early notification of such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.

Norman F. Oblon



Richard L. Chinn, Ph.D.

Attorney of Record

Registration No. 34,305

Customer Number

22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000

Fax: (703) 413 -2220

(OSMMN 06/04)

RLC:aif